



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

October 15, 2003

Dear Permit Holder:

Animal and
Plant
Health
Inspection
Service

Plant Protection
And Quarantine

USDA APHIS
Headquarters
4700 River Rd.
Unit 133
Riverdale, MD
20737

This letter is to inform you that several changes have occurred that effect your valid PPQ Form 526 permit to possess and move live plant pests, biological control organisms or noxious weeds. Due to the events of September 11, 2001, and concerns raised by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) has amended the following permit policies:

Shipping Labels: If your permit authorizes you to receive organisms from foreign sources, you have received labels (PPQ Form 599) that you must send to your supplier. Your supplier must affix an original label to the exterior of each package. The label will route the package to a PPQ inspection station at the port of entry into the United States. If there is no label attached to the exterior or the label has been modified, USDA inspectors at all ports of entry have been instructed to refuse entry of the package. Do not photocopy labels. Photocopies will not be accepted and may jeopardize the shipment(s). You have received a 6-month supply of pre-printed labels, each with a unique number. You must account for each of these labels. A tracking sheet has been provided for your convenience or you may design your own. We will introduce a new, tamper-resistant label in the near future. At that time you must return all the older labels to us and submit the tracking sheet for the labels you have used. When we receive your tracking sheet and unused labels, we will issue new labels to you.

Hand Carrying: Effective November 1, 2003 importing organisms on your person, in personal baggage, or automobile under a Plant Pest Permit (PPQ Form 526) will not be allowed. All organisms authorized for importation by these methods under a USDA APHIS PPQ permit issued prior to August 1, 2003, will continue to be allowed only until November 1, 2003, if so authorized on the permit. All organisms being imported in this manner after November 1, 2003 will be seized and moved to the nearest PPQ Plant Inspection Station for destruction unless explicitly authorized on a permit issued on or after August 1, 2003. All importations of organisms under PPQ Plant Pest Permits must be by bonded carriers after November 1, 2003.

Conditions: Carefully read the conditions of your permit. These conditions were designed to prevent dissemination of the permitted organisms or contaminants that may accompany shipments. You must comply with all conditions on the permit. Take special note of specific requirements such as notifications, identifications or other documentation that must be submitted to APHIS. If you cannot or will not comply with the conditions, immediately return the permit to us. Failure or refusal to comply with permit conditions will result in revocation of the permit and possible civil or criminal penalties. Additionally, please be aware that effective March 3, 2003, Plant Protection and Quarantine Permit Services Branch began requiring acknowledgement and



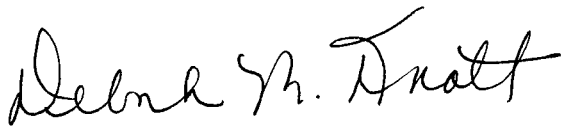
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acceptance of permit conditions prior to permit issuance. This policy applies to all permit requests including amendments and new permits.

Maintaining Permits: You are responsible for safeguarding the organisms throughout the duration of your permit. You must keep your permit valid as long as the organisms are in your possession. If you leave the institution where the organisms are held, you must either: (1) designate a qualified individual to assume responsibility for the continued maintenance of the organism and he or she must obtain a new permit prior to your departure; (2) apply for a new permit to move the organism to a new facility; or (3) destroy the organisms. In any case, you may notify APHIS to cancel the original permit.

Additional information about USDA APHIS PPQ permitting can be found on our website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/permits/> or call us at (301) 734-8758.



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